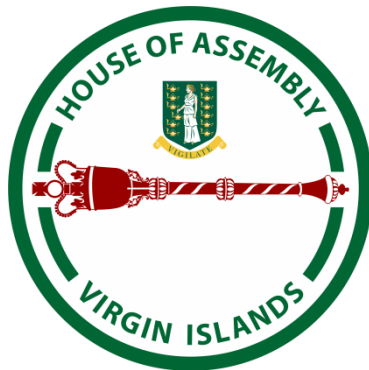


**SECOND SITTING OF THE THIRD SESSION
OF THE FIFTH HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**



**TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 2026
AT THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA
AT 4:00 P.M.**

Amended V
(12th May, 2026)

ORDER OF THE DAY

ORDER OF THE DAY

- 1) **Prayers**
- 2) **Administration of Oaths**
- 3) **Confirmation of Minutes**
 - i) Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of 18th September, 2025 (**9th Sitting**);
 - ii) Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of 30th October, 2025 (**10th Sitting**);
 - iii) Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of 4th November, 2025 (**11th Sitting**).
- 4) **Announcements by the Speaker**
- 5) **Statements by Ministers**
- 6) **Presentation of Papers**
 - a) **Presentation of Papers the Premier and Minister of Finance to lay on the table the following documents:**
 - i) British Virgin Islands Financial Investigation Agency Annual Report 2024;
 - ii) British Virgin Islands Financial Investigation Agency Approved Budget Estimates, 2025;
 - iii) Statutory Instrument No. 20 of 2026 - Customs Management and Duties (Amendment of Schedule 4) Order, 2026; and
 - iv) Statutory Instrument No. 22 of 2026 - Statutory Rates, Fees and Charges (Amendment of Schedule) Order, 2026
 - b) **The Minister for Communications and Works to lay on the table the following documents:**
 - i) Ministry of Communications and Works Annual Report 2023; and
 - ii) Statutory Instrument No. 21 of 2026 - British Virgin Islands Ports Authority (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

c) **The Minister for Health and Social Development to lay on the table the following document:**

- i) The Instrument of Appointment of Deputy Director of Social Security Board.

7) Notices of Motions Given Orally

- a) The Premier and Minister of Finance gave notice that, at a later stage in the proceedings, he would seek leave to move the Motions standing in his name under Items 8 (1)(i) to (iii) and (v) through (xi) and (xiii) on the Order of the Day.
- b) The Minister Communications and Works gave notice that, at a later stage in the proceedings, he would seek leave to move the Motions standing in his name under Items 8 (1)(iv) and (xii) on the Order of the Day.

8) Public Business

1) Government Business

- (i) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move the following motion that the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole House to consider the draft report on the debate and deliberations on the Constitutional Review Report.

Second and Third Readings

- (ii) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move a motion for the Second and Third Readings of the Bill entitled, “**Mutual Legal Assistance (Tax Matters) (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025**”;
- (iii) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move a motion for the Second and Third Readings of the Bill entitled, “**Magistrate’s Code of Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025**”;
- (iv) The Minister for Communications and Works to move a motion for the Second and Third Readings of the Bill entitled, “**Virgin Islands Energy and Water Corporation Bill, 2026**”;
- (v) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move a motion for the Second and Third Readings of the Bill entitled, “**Tonnage Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2026**”;
- (vi) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move a motion for the Second and Third Readings of the Bill entitled, “**Human Rights Commission, Bill 2026**”.
- (vii) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move the following motion that the

House resolve itself into a committee of the whole House to consider the **Deliberations on the Constitutional Review Commission (2022 to 2023) Report.**

(viii) **The Premier and Minister of Finance to move the following motion:**

WHEREAS it is provided under Standing Order 78(1)(a) that there may be a Select Committee, other than a Standing Select Committee, to be known as a Special Select Committee;

WHEREAS it is also provided under Standing Order 78(1)(b) and (c) that a Special Select Committee shall be appointed by order of the House of Assembly which shall specify the terms of reference of the Committee and shall consist of such or so many Members as the House of Assembly may nominate;

WHEREAS it is provided by Standing Order 78(2) of the Standing Orders that the quorum of a Special Select Committee shall be such as shall be specified in the order of the House;

WHEREAS it is provided by Standing Order 79(1) of the Standing Orders that every Select Committee shall be so constituted as to ensure, so far as possible, that the balance of parties in the House is reflected in the Committee;

WHEREAS the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands considers it necessary and expedient to constitute a Special Select Committee to deliberate on matters relating to the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2026;

WHEREAS the House of Assembly wishes for all Members of the House to participate in the deliberations of the Committee in order to ensure broad parliamentary consideration of the matters arising under the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2026;

AND WHEREAS the terms of reference of the Committee are to

(a) examine and deliberate upon the provisions of the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2026; and

(b) make recommendations regarding any amendments, revisions, or other measures that may be necessary or desirable in relation to the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2026;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands that a Special Select Committee of the House of Assembly be appointed in accordance with Standing Order 78 to deliberate and make recommendations on the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2026, and that all Members of the House of Assembly shall be members of

the Committee, and shall perform the functions aforesaid;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall elect a Chairman from among its members and that seven Members of the Committee shall constitute the quorum.

Second and Third Readings cont..

(ix) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move a motion for the Second and Third Readings of the Bill entitled, “**Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2026**”;

(x) **The Premier and Minister of Finance to move the following motion:**

WHEREAS the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007, U.K.S.I. 2007 No. 1678, came into force on 15th June 2007;

WHEREAS it was agreed between the United Kingdom Government and the Government of the Virgin Islands that the said Constitution may be reviewed after ten (10) years after the date of which it came into force and it is now nineteen (19) years since that Constitution came into force;

WHEREAS Cabinet agreed to the establishment of a Constitutional Review Commission for the purpose of conducting a full review of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007, U.K.S.I. 2007 No. 1678, and the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands, by Resolution No. 15 of 2020, approved the establishment and composition of that Commission and the Constitutional Review Commission completed its Report on 27th November, 2023;

WHEREAS the House of Assembly completed its deliberations on the Report of the Constitutional Review Commission in April 2026 and produced its own Report entitled Deliberations on the Constitutional Review Commission (2022 to 2023) Report.

WHEREAS the Report was laid on the Table of the House of Assembly to become a public document to inform further discussion with the People of the Virgin Islands and will be presented to the Government of the United Kingdom through the Minister for Overseas Territories.;

AND WHEREAS the Premier of the Virgin Islands has established a Constitutional Negotiating Committee to engage with the Government of the United Kingdom in negotiations towards a new Constitution for the Virgin Islands;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly approves the Constitutional Negotiating Committee established by the Premier of the Virgin Islands to engage with the Government of the

United Kingdom in negotiating a new Constitution on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the Constitutional Negotiating Committee shall be as follows:

1. Hon. Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley, Premier and Minister of Finance
2. Hon. Julian Fraser RA, Deputy Premier and Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change
3. Hon. Kye Rymer, Minister for Communications and Works
4. Hon. Sharie de Castro, Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports
5. Hon. Dawn J. Smith, Attorney General
6. Mr. Gerard St. C. Farara, KC, Chair, 2005 Constitutional Review Commission
7. Hon. Marlon A. Penn, Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition
8. Hon. Ronnie W. Skelton, Member of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition; Former Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance
9. Mrs. Lisa Penn Lettsume, Chair, 2023 Constitutional Review Commission
10. Mrs. Maya Barry, Member, 2023 Constitutional Review Commission

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall be supported by the following

resource persons:

1. Mrs. Carolyn Stoutt Igwe, Permanent Secretary, Premier's Office
2. Ms. Dwynel Davis, Acting Director of International Affairs Secretariat
3. Ms. Ayana Glasgow, Director of Financial Services, Ministry of Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation
4. Ms. Xyrah Wheatley, Private Secretary to Minister of Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation
5. Mr. Benito Wheatley, Special Envoy to the Premier
6. Ms. Tracy Bradshaw, Director of BVI London Office

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Constitutional Negotiating Committee shall represent the Virgin Islands in discussions and negotiations with the Government of the United Kingdom concerning the reform and modernisation of the constitutional framework of the Virgin Islands.

(xi) **The Premier and Minister of Finance to move the following motion:**

WHEREAS section 3(1) of the Statutory Rates, Fees and Charges Act, 2005, No. 28 of 2005, (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) provides that the Cabinet may, by means of an Order amending the Schedule, exercise a power given to the House of Assembly, the Governor, Cabinet, a Minister or any other person or statutory body

- (a) to impose or vary rates, fees or other charges;
- (b) to grant exemptions with respect to rates, fees or other charges;
- (c) to approve the imposition or variation of rates, fees or other charges or the granting of exemptions with respect to rates, fees and other charges,

whether by resolution, regulations, Order or other statutory instrument and whether on the advice or recommendation of, or after consultation with, any person, body or authority;

WHEREAS section 3(2) of the Act provides that where such an Order is made it shall be subject to an affirmative resolution of the House of Assembly;

WHEREAS the Cabinet in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 3(1) of the Act, made the Statutory Rates, Fees and Charges (Amendment of Schedule) Order, 2026, S.I. No. 22 of 2026 (“the Order”) on the 30th day of April, 2026 to amend the British Virgin Islands Ports Authority charges relating to wharfage and containers appearing in Part 3 of the Schedule to the Act;

WHEREAS the Order was published in the *Gazette* on the 30th day of April, 2026 by way of advanced notice;

AND WHEREAS the Order was laid on the Table of the House of Assembly on the 30th day of April, 2026;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands approves the Order laid on the Table of the House of Assembly on the 30th day of April, 2026 and the said Order shall come into force on the 1st day of May, 2026.

(xii) **The Minister for Communications and Works to move the following motion:**

WHEREAS section 94(1) of British Virgin Islands Ports Authority Act, 1990, No. 12 of 1990, (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) provides that the Minister may make regulations in respect of matters required by the Act to be prescribed or in respect of which regulations are authorised to be made;

WHEREAS section 94(5) of the Act provides that every regulation made by the Minister shall, as soon as convenient after its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought before the House of Assembly for approval;

WHEREAS the Minister in exercise of the powers conferred by section 94(1) of the Act, made the British Virgin Islands Ports Authority (Amendment) Regulations, 2026, S.I. No. 21 of 2026 (“the Regulations”) on the 30th day of April, 2026 to amend the British Virgin Islands Ports Authority charges relating to wharfage and containers;

WHEREAS the Regulations were published in the *Gazette* on the 30th day of April, 2026;

AND WHEREAS the Regulations were laid on the Table of the House of Assembly on the 30th day of April, 2026;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands approves the Regulations laid on the Table of the House of Assembly on the 30th day of April, 2026 and the said Regulations shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of May, 2026.

Introduction and First Reading

- (xiii) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move a motion for the Introduction and First Reading of the Bill entitled, “**Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2026**”.
- (xiv) **The Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change to move the following motion:**

WHEREAS sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the Crown Lands Management Act, 2024, No. 7 of 2024, provides for the establishment of a Crown Lands Advisory Board, comprising of not more than eleven persons;

WHEREAS section 7(1) of the said Act provides that the Minister charged with responsibility for Crown Lands after consultation with the Leader of Opposition and with the approval of Cabinet shall appoint one of the Members as Chairperson and another as Deputy Chairperson from among the members of the Board and the instruments of appointment of all members shall be executed by the Minister;

WHEREAS section 7(2) of the said Act provides that the appointment of the Chairperson shall be subject to an affirmative Resolution of the House of Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Minister charged with responsibility for Crown Lands, after consultation with the Leader of Opposition and with the approval of Cabinet appointed Mr. Dirk L. Walters, as Chairperson of the Crown Lands Advisory Board for a period of three (3) years with effect from the 6th day of May, 2026 to the 5th day of May, 2029;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands approves the appointment of Mr. Dirk L. Walters, as Chairperson of the Crown Lands Advisory Board for a period of three (3) years with effect from the 6th day of May, 2026 to the 5th day of May, 2029.

Second and Third Readings cont..

- (xv) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move a motion for the Second and Third Readings of the Bill entitled, **“Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2026”**.

- 2) **Private Members Business**
- 9) **Other Business**
- 10) **Adjournment**